

20040405.ba v03_n633.bam.20040405

>From ???@??? Mon Apr 5 13:13:50 2004 +0000
Message-Id: <200404051813.i35IDW4D014882@sco.theporch.com>
Date: Mon, 5 Apr 2004 13:13:15 CDT
From: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: BOATANCHORS digest 3633

BOATANCHORS Digest 3633

Topics covered in this issue include:

- 1) RE: More about Knight Kit
by chuck grandgent <chuck@chuckg.com>
- 2) Re: Old Tube metal detectors
by "ed sharpe" <esharpe@uswest.net>
- 3) Re: More about Knight Kit
by "John Oglesby" <john91@charter.net>
- 4) Lafayette TE-46A RC Analyzer Help
by "Mark Shaum" <k9tr@dtnspeed.net>
- 5) Re: More about Knight Kit
by "Arden Allen" <gumbear@pacbell.net>
- 6) Re: T-60 modification
by "Mark Shaum" <k9tr@dtnspeed.net>
- 7) Wet Willy
by stuck in 50s <polepeeg@h-dumpty.ba-watch.org>
- 8) Question re HT-32B
by "James C. Garland" <4cx250b@muohio.edu>
- 9) RE: HV Capacitors wanted
by "Larry Menzel" <retire@rconnect.com>
- 10) Re: Question re HT-32B
by "wb6orz" <wb6orz@pacbell.net>
- 11) Re: Wet Willy
by "Ned Ely" <adcinfo@ghg.net>
- 12) Re: Wet Willy aka GE 250 and 260 portables
by Scott Robinson <spr@earthlink.net>
- 13) Re: Wet Willy aka GE 250 and 260 portables
by Scott Robinson <spr@earthlink.net>
- 14) Re: Question re HT-32B
by Edward Knobloch <k4pf@juno.com>
- 15) Trade for TBW?
by David Stinson <arc5@ix.netcom.com>
- 16) Hallicrafter S-38B
by Ralph Ilowite <rilowite@optonline.net>
- 17) FS: Knight Kit R-100 External Matching Speaker
by Dave Hollander <n7rk@cox.net>
- 18) Re: Hallicrafter S-38B

by "Arden Allen" <gumbear@pacbell.net>
19) manual
by philip <dgnova@erols.com>
20) Re: Wet Willy
by "Ned Ely" <adcinfo@ghg.net>
21) Re: Wet Willy
by Henry van Cleef <vancleef@eskimo.com>
22) [Radiomarine] K6KPH OTA For Marconi Day
by Richard Dillman <ddillman@igc.org>

Date: Fri, 02 Apr 2004 20:54:11 -0500
From: chuck grandgent <chuck@chuckg.com>
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: RE: More about Knight Kit
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
Message-Id: <200404022058221.SM00447@octave-mcmsbb3d>

I also had one of these, courtesy of my father.
I was probably 10 or 11 when we put it together.
I remember my Dad wrote them a LONG letter with all the errors or
discrepancies he found in the kit instructions. not up to Heathkit
standards.

I did love that radio. I got a Heath AT-1 transmitter, but I never did
make a contact with those two, but I then ended up with a Heath HR-20/HX-20
pair. The Star Roamer was in the attic when our house had a fire in
the late 60's, and it got toasted and discarded. From time to time I'm
tempted to replace it, but it wouldn't be the same.

Chuck, K10M

john (johnmb@nc.rr.com) wrote:

>
> Hi Greg,
> The SR was my first "real" radio. I don't remember what Allied
> catalog it was, but I clearly remember a page advertising the Star
> Roamer, that had a fireman talking into a mic, with a fire in the background,
> and the Eiffel tower in the image too....these all being images conjured
> up through the use of this magical radio.
>
> Mine worked after a fact, and somewhere along the line, my father
> got rid of it. I've got another now, but it's not the same. I never
> did make a contact on that darned thing, but it started me down
> the road to ham radio ruin. :-)
>

> John
> K5MO
>
>

Message-ID: <001801c41925\$bcd75710\$c2956d44@SONYDIGITALED>
From: "ed sharpe" <esharpe@uswest.net>
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: Re: Old Tube metal detectors
Date: Fri, 2 Apr 2004 19:45:34 -0700
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

old tube Geiger counters are a fun thing too!

speaking of a Theremin.
We would pay a nice obscene price for a real RCA one....

ed sharpe archivist for smecc

----- Original Message -----
From: "cswiger" <cswiger@widomaker.com>
To: "Old Tube Radios" <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 01, 2004 8:27 AM
Subject: Old Tube metal detectors

> Gang - For what it's worth I stopped into a small locally
> owned electronics shop to pick up a used metal detector. After
> we got to talking the proprietor goes in the back and brings
> out this refugee from the junk pile with 4 tubes in it and
> a b+ battery. Interesting little device, I guess it's just
> a specially made rf oscillator w/ bfo and one coil at the
> end of the stick, probably runs anything from 10 to 60Kc,
> like an upside down theramin.
>
> --Chuck
> kb4new
>
>
>

Message-ID: <017a01c41925\$f399e510\$0400a8c0@Radio>

From: "John Oglesby" <john91@charter.net>
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: Re: More about Knight Kit
Date: Fri, 2 Apr 2004 21:47:06 -0500
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

The first radio I ever had was a Knight Kit R100A. My Dad arranged to buy it for me when I was 13 and I paid him for it at \$5 a month out of my allowance for what seemed forever. I think the kit was \$95. I still have the radio 40 years later and it still works. The biggest issue with the radio's performance was that the calibration on bandspread was poor and tuning mechanicals were marginal at best. Selectivity was OK for the time with a decent Q-Multiplier. High band reception was not good with poor image rejection. I mostly used it on 40 meters where it was OK for a kid.

The radio has a printed circuit bandswitch that plugs into and then is soldered to a printed circuit board that has the switched tuned circuits. When I originally built the radio I had trouble getting it to work. My Dad took into the Navy communications lab at the Naval Avionics Center in Indianapolis where he worked and had them take a look. They couldn't get it to work either. We sent a letter to Knight and they sent a new bandswitch/tuning circuit board, etc. When it was rebuilt all was well. There was some problem with the board that was never revealed. I used the radio for many years as my general coverage receiver, but it is now relegated to the electronic storage area. (I think the 51J-4 does a better job)

I never had the matching transmitter, I recall that my Dad got me a Globe King on indefinite (infinite?) loan from a long time ham at NAC.

Many a long night was spent listening to the R100A - romance can make up for a lot of performance problems.

73 - John - N9RE

Message-ID: <000f01c41928\$f5382460\$0200a8c0@ahome.net>
From: "Mark Shaum" <k9tr@dtnspeed.net>
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: Lafayette TE-46A RC Analyzer Help
Date: Fri, 2 Apr 2004 21:08:35 -0600
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Anyone have one of these nice little RC bridges that could give me a clue as to the meter movement installed within? The meter on mine was damaged when received and I have no schematic or other detailed info. I'm not able to identify the original meter characteristics as the scale is missing and the coil open. I've borrowed an "official" 1 1/2 inch square Lafayette 0-1ma unit from my 5763 one-tuber, which fits mechanically but not electrically.

This seems like a nice compact bridge that I don't see mentioned often. Quite accurate with a good eye tube null, also has a transformer turns ratio mode, and a built in leakage tester (6 to 600 volts applied, 1ma and 10ma FS leakage scales if I had the right meter..) along with an insulation test mode, up to 300 Meg if I read some references correctly.

Mark Shaum K9TR
email: k9tr@dtnspeed.net
http://www.qsl.net/k9tr

Message-ID: <003001c4192e\$f59af620\$d8e47443@KB6NAX>
From: "Arden Allen" <gumbear@pacbell.net>
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: Re: More about Knight Kit
Date: Fri, 2 Apr 2004 19:46:28 -0800
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

My first experience with kits was with the Knight Kit Ocean Hopper. Our eighth grade teacher bought it for our just formed four member radio club. We got it half built before the teacher decided we were having too much fun breaking too many things, his code practice oscillator for one. So much for the radio club. The Ocean Hopper only got half built and disappeared one day, the last day we had a club "meeting." It was great fun while it lasted though :-)

Arden Allen
KB6NAX

Message-ID: <000d01c4193e\$46f5d800\$0200a8c0@ahome.net>
From: "Mark Shaum" <k9tr@dtnspeed.net>
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: Re: T-60 modification

Date: Fri, 2 Apr 2004 23:41:13 -0600
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

George asks:

> Anchorites:
>
> I've gotten the bug to resurrect my old T-60 from the 1960's (my first
=
> transmitter), and am curious as to what "factory mod" changes the
thing =
> went thru.
> Does anyone have any comments/experience with these mods, and were
there others? =
> any others?

I had a T-60 for half of my novice year or near-year and recall one mod
that
really helped to reduce chirp. A 2k 10w resistor from the 1v B+ to a VR
tube (150 V proolly)
to regulate the oscillator plate voltage. I don't think the chirp was
all that bad to begin
with, but what was there bugged me.

73! Mark K9TR

Date: Sat, 3 Apr 2004 06:18:53 -0500 (EST)
From: stuck in 50s <polepeeg@h-dumpty.ba-watch.org>
Message-Id: <200404031118.i33BIrNq012060@h-dumpty.ba-watch.org>
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: Wet Willy

Anyone ever have one of the GE 250 or 260 1946 portables w. a 2V Willard
lead acid battery?

One now here. Amazing gizmo.

Strongly reminiscent of the BC-728 gas receiver.

Marty

Message-Id: <5.1.0.14.2.20040403082555.012b85d8@admin.muohio.edu>

Date: Sat, 03 Apr 2004 08:26:49 -0500
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
From: "James C. Garland" <4cx250b@muohio.edu>
Subject: Question re HT-32B
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

Hi Gang,
Anybody know the differences between the Hallicrafters HT-32, 32A and 32B transmitters?
Tnx.
Jim W8ZR

From: "Larry Menzel" <retire@rconnect.com>
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: RE: HV Capacitors wanted
Date: Tue, 30 Mar 2004 12:27:15 -0600
Message-ID: <MDBBIGOLCFCJOMACLIHAEDICCAA.retire@rconnect.com>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Bob,

Will this work: <http://www.apexjr.com/capacitorsR.html#Disc>

Larry, N0XB
Northfield, MN

-----Original Message-----

From: owner-boatanchors@theporch.com
[mailto:owner-boatanchors@theporch.com] On Behalf Of Bob Kemp
Sent: Friday, April 02, 2004 4:55 PM
To: Old Tube Radios
Subject: HV Capacitors wanted

Anyone have a source for 2500+ volt caps (270pf)! These can be disk ceramic or dipped mica's.
Bob

Message-ID: <002101c4199a\$5f312210\$d26ffea9@Shack>
From: "wb6orz" <wb6orz@pacbell.net>
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Cc: "Boatanchors" <boatanchors@theporch.com>

Subject: Re: Question re HT-32B
Date: Sat, 3 Apr 2004 08:40:28 -0800
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Hi, Jim.

Basically they're the same except:

"A" adds provision for a phone patch, FSK, and push-to-talk mic circuit.

"B" same as "A," with cosmetic difference of addition of "windows" in front panel for band number read-out above the bandswitch and logging scale above the freq. knob.

Common feature: at a certain operator age, it is recommended that these be moved by two, not one man.

See Dachis, 1996. p.86

(((((73))))))

Les

-----WB60RZ-----

----- Original Message -----

From: "James C. Garland" <4cx250b@muohio.edu>
To: "Old Tube Radios" <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 03, 2004 5:26 AM
Subject: Question re HT-32B

> Hi Gang,
> Anybody know the differences between the Hallicrafters HT-32, 32A and 32B
> transmitters?
> Tnx.
> Jim W8ZR
>

Message-ID: <008201c4199d\$cb60dfe0\$8a45f340@adcinfo>
From: "Ned Ely" <adcinfo@ghg.net>
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: Re: Wet Willy
Date: Sat, 3 Apr 2004 11:04:47 -0600
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Revived one recently for a friend. Be sure to clean the Loctal sockets and tube pins before you dive into it too deeply. It may work without too much bother. Note that the vibrator works whether it is operated on the battery or the line cord.

Ned Ely

----- Original Message -----

From: "stuck in 50s" <polepeeg@h-dumpty.ba-watch.org>

To: "Old Tube Radios" <boatanchors@theporch.com>

Sent: Saturday, April 03, 2004 5:18 AM

Subject: Wet Willy

>
> Anyone ever have one Of the GE 250 or 260 1946 portables w. a 2V Willard
> lead acid battery?
>
> One now here. Amazing gizmo.
>
> Strongly reminiscent of the BC-728 gas receiver.
>
> Marty

Mime-Version: 1.0

Message-Id: <p06020400bc94bccba35f@[216.175.81.108]>

Date: Sat, 3 Apr 2004 11:16:47 -0800

To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>

From: Scott Robinson <spr@earthlink.net>

Subject: Re: Wet Willy aka GE 250 and 260 portables

Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii" ; format="flowed"

Hi Marty,

I have, I think, three of the 260 SW version, in different colors. I have one working, although even iwth all new caps and good resistors it overloads on strong signals for AVC reasons I have not yet figured out. Wonderful radio-RF amp, two IFs, and a 12.5 AH Cylon Gel-Cel fits int he existing battery compartment, runs it just fine and ought to last about 12 hours.

The SW loop antennas (no telescoping whip to break) are scarce as they are detachable and get lost. I have one original antenna and can help if anyone needs to make one.

Regards,

Scott

>Anyone ever have one Of the GE 250 or 260 1946 portables w. a 2V Willard
>lead acid battery?
>
>One now here. Amazing gizmo.

>
>Strongly reminiscent of the BC-728 gas receiver.
>
> Marty

Mime-Version: 1.0
Message-Id: <p06020401bc94be30f6f2@[216.175.110.141]>
Date: Sat, 3 Apr 2004 11:18:57 -0800
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
From: Scott Robinson <spr@earthlink.net>
Subject: Re: Wet Willy aka GE 250 and 260 portables
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii" ; format="flowed"

Ned,

Yes it will, but it will hum badly. You need a BIG (maybe 100,000 uF) 5 V capacitor and 2.2V zener or equivalent to replace the 2V lead-acid battery, or a 12.5AH Cylon Gel-Cel. The power supply uses the battery as a filter cap for the filament circuit.

Regards,

Scott

>Revived one recently for a friend. Be sure to clean the Loctal sockets and
>tube pins before you dive into it too deeply. It may work without too much
>bother. Note that the vibrator works whether it is operated on the battery
>or the line cord.

>Ned Ely

>----- Original Message -----

>From: "stuck in 50s" <polepeeg@h-dumpty.ba-watch.org>

>To: "Old Tube Radios" <boatanchors@theporch.com>

>Sent: Saturday, April 03, 2004 5:18 AM

>Subject: Wet Willy

>

>

>>

>> Anyone ever have one of the GE 250 or 260 1946 portables w. a 2V Willard
>> lead acid battery?

>>

>> One now here. Amazing gizmo.

>>

>> Strongly reminiscent of the BC-728 gas receiver.

>>

>> Marty

To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Cc: boatanchors@theporch.com
Date: Sat, 3 Apr 2004 16:12:28 -0500
Subject: Re: Question re HT-32B
Message-ID: <20040403.161229.1372.0.k4pf@juno.com>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
From: Edward Knobloch <k4pf@juno.com>

"James C. Garland" <4cx250b@muohio.edu> writes:
> Hi Gang,
> Anybody know the differences between the Hallicrafters HT-32, 32A
> and 32B
> transmitters?

Hi, Jim

The HT-32B introduced use of a 7360 balanced modulator tube.
The HT-32 and HT-32A used a "bridged-tee" modulator.

None of them included an ALC circuit, a strange oversight.

Also, none had a meter to measure final plate current.
only a relative output meter.
The manual just has you set a pot for a certain final bias voltage.
It is hit or miss that your 6146's will draw the desired resting
current at that voltage. Thus, a burnt-out power transformer
may be your first clue that your finals are drawing too much current.

Also, beware when operating on 10m. It is possible to generate
a big out-of-band spur if your driver capacitor is set too far towards
fully meshed, at least with an HT-32B. I can send you some
notes on this, if you are interested.

73,
Ed Knobloch

k4pf@juno.com

Message-ID: <406F2F7B.8050200@ix.netcom.com>
Date: Sat, 03 Apr 2004 15:41:15 -0600
From: David Stinson <arc5@ix.netcom.com>
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: Trade for TBW?

Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii; format=flowed
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Does anyone have any TBW transmitter sections-
HF or LF- which they'd like to trade?

Date: Sat, 03 Apr 2004 16:50:18 -0500
From: Ralph Ilowite <rilowite@optonline.net>
Subject: Hallicrafter S-38B
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Message-id: <001f01c419c5\$a7a38620\$bf00a8c0@NEWDURON>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1
Content-transfer-encoding: 7BIT

Does anyone have a manual or copy for this radio or can direct me to someone who has? If not, a schematic would help. I just found one at an estate sale. The radio works well but cosmetically a bit shabby. Dials and knobs good and does play very well but needs some touch up, maybe a paint job. Regards to all; Ralph, W2GKG

Message-ID: <406F550A.53800C9@cox.net>
Date: Sat, 03 Apr 2004 17:21:31 -0700
From: Dave Hollander <n7rk@cox.net>
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: FS: Knight Kit R-100 External Matching Speaker
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii; x-mac-type="54455854"; x-mac-creator="4D4F5353"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

For Sale.....

External Matching Speaker for the Knight R-100 Receiver.....\$60
plus shipping
Cosmetically excellent with no dings or scratches. Only flaw is a
headphone jack that has been mounted on the side. Does not have a logo.
I have seen them with and without.

http://members.cox.net/radiostuff9/knight_spkr.jpg

http://members.cox.net/radiostuff9/knight_spkr2.jpg

http://members.cox.net/radiostuff9/knight_spkr3.jpg

http://members.cox.net/radiostuff9/knight_spkr4.jpg

http://members.cox.net/radiostuff9/knight_spkr5.jpg

I will ship overseas

Thanks for looking

--

Dave N7RK Boatanchors Home Page: <http://members.cox.net/n7rk>
Phoenix, Arizona *DXCC Honor Roll* *WAZ#22 - 75 Meter SSB*

ex-XE2/N7RK, N7RK/ZB2, VK2ERK, ZM0AJN, WB6NRK, WN6IWX

Boatanchor and Antique Radio Collector

Message-ID: <001001c419f1\$5ac30700\$24e57443@KB6NAX>

From: "Arden Allen" <gumbear@pacbell.net>

To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>

Subject: Re: Hallicrafter S-38B

Date: Sat, 3 Apr 2004 19:03:01 -0800

MIME-Version: 1.0

Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"

Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Ralph;

> Does anyone have a manual or copy for this radio or can direct me to
> someone
> who has? If not, a schematic would help. I just found one at an estate
> sale. The radio works well but cosmetically a bit shabby. Dials and
> knobs
> good and does play very well but needs some touch up, maybe a paint job.
> Regards to all; Ralph, W2GKG

Have a look at <<http://www.nostalgiaair.org/Resources/178/T00000178.htm>>

Arden Allen
KB6NAX

Message-ID: <40709A1C.21A09846@erols.com>

Date: Sun, 04 Apr 2004 19:28:28 -0400

From: philip <dgnova@erols.com>

MIME-Version: 1.0

To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: manual
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

The following manual surplus to my needs:

TM11-4001 repair instructions for radio receivers BC-312,
-A,-C,-D,-E,-F,-G,-J,-L,-M,-N,-HX,and -NX

and BC-342, -A,-C,-D,-F,-J,-L,-M, and -N
War Department Feb 1945
shipped to CONUS \$25

dgnova@erols.com

Message-ID: <012301c41aac\$7b25fa00\$a545f340@adcinio>
From: "Ned Ely" <adcinio@ghg.net>
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: Re: Wet Willy
Date: Sun, 4 Apr 2004 20:22:31 -0500
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

BTW, there is a 6 Volt bias battery on the control-grid of the 3Q5GT output tube. I replaced it with two 3 Volt Lithium coin cells. Note that the negative goes to the grid and positive goes to ground.

Ned

----- Original Message -----
From: "Ned Ely" <adcinio@ghg.net>
To: "Old Tube Radios" <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 03, 2004 12:04 PM
Subject: Re: Wet Willy

> Revived one recently for a friend. Be sure to clean the Octal sockets and
> tube pins before you dive into it too deeply. It may work without too much
> bother. Note that the vibrator works whether it is operated on the battery
> or the line cord.

> Ned Ely

> ----- Original Message -----
> From: "stuck in 50s" <polepeeg@h-dumpty.ba-watch.org>
> To: "Old Tube Radios" <boatanchors@theporch.com>
> Sent: Saturday, April 03, 2004 5:18 AM
> Subject: Wet Willy

>
>
> >
> > Anyone ever have one of the GE 250 or 260 1946 portables w. a 2V Willard
> > lead acid battery?
> >
> > One now here. Amazing gizmo.
> >
> > Strongly reminiscent of the BC-728 gas receiver.
> >
> > Marty

From: Henry van Cleef <vancleef@eskimo.com>
Message-Id: <200404050227.TAA14454@eskimo.com>
Subject: Re: Wet Willy
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Date: Sun, 4 Apr 2004 20:27:45 -0600 (MDT)
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

The esteemed stuck in 50s has said:

>
>
> Anyone ever have one of the GE 250 or 260 1946 portables w. a 2V Willard
> lead acid battery?
>
> One now here. Amazing gizmo.
>

Yeah, I had several of the GE storage battery portables in the fifties. The 250, as I recall, was AM broadcast only, and the 260 had shortwave bands in addition. Case made out of zinc die castings, with a loop antenna in the cover. Power supply was like an auto radio, 2V storage battery and a synchronous vibrator. Made '46-'48, then they dropped them.

The prewar version (LB830, if I recall the model correctly) was made in '41. It had a conventional chassis with octal tubes, a leatherette-covered wood case, and the power supply was in a spring-mounted box with a different battery and vibrator, still Willard 2-volt. I saw maybe 10 of these sets in various places when I was a youngster, but the only 250 and 260 were the ones I ended up with myself---I think the 260 was pretty rare. The postwar sets were much heavier than the prewar one, but all were fairly heavy to carry around.

The charging circuit was a simple full-wave with copper oxide

rectifiers that would die from acid fumes. You have to have a battery in the things to run them, and battery has to have some charge in it---as I recall, the AC supply wouldn't carry the radio when it was playing. Battery state of charge was indicated by hydrometer balls in the clear plastic case----the prewar had three; postwar only two.

Interesting sets, and the concept of a rechargeable portable was pretty innovative for the time.

One gimmick in the circuit is the use of a bias cell in the output tube grid circuit. If that's dead, the audio is badly distorted. Fix would be to put 4.5-6 volts of lithium coin cells or similar, with the negative to the grid.

Dunno where you'd get a battery for either version to fit the case. Willard has long since gone the way of the Packard, and I think those batteries were discontinued sometime in the mid-50's.

Hank

--

Hank van Cleef (vancleef@eskimo.com, hvanclee@nyx.net)
1986 420SEL "A stranger in paradise" (Fremont Co. Wyoming)
1986 GMC 1500 6.2 diesel pickup "Seen one, seen them all"

Message-ID: <15089296.1081188771503.JavaMail.root@wamui08.slb.atl.earthlink.net>
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
From: Richard Dillman <ddillman@igc.org>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Date: Mon, 5 Apr 2004 11:12:51 -0700 (GMT-07:00)
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K6KPH ON THE AIR FOR INTERNATIONAL MARCONI DAY 2004

The Maritime Radio Historical Society is pleased to announce that K6KPH, the amateur counterpart of ex-RCA marine coast station KPH, will be on the air for International Marconi Day 2004.

K6KPH transmits from the transmitter site established in Bolinas, California by

the American Marconi Co. in 1913. The transmitters are controlled remotely from the receiving station at Pt. Reyes, California. Only KPH transmitters, receivers and antennas are used by K6KPH. No amateur gear is employed.

For IMD 2004 1950s vintage RCA transmitters will be on the air. Power output is 1.5kW for all transmitters. Transmitting antennas are double extended Zepps and H over 2s. Receiving antennas are rhombics and omnis.

Frequencies:

K6KPH will be using 3545kc, 7050kc, 14050kc and 21050kc as conditions warrant.

Hours of operation:

Operations will begin at 0000Z 24 April 2004 and continue for about 4 hours.

QSL Information:

QSLs and reception reports may be sent to:

Ms. Denice Stoops
PO Box 381
Bollinas, CA 94924

For further information about the Maritime Radio Historical society please visit our Web site at:

<http://www.radiomarine.org>

For more information about International Marconi Day please visit:

<http://www.gb4imd.co.uk/>

VY 73,

RD

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Richard Dillman, W6AWO
Maritime Radio Historical Society
<http://www.radiomarine.org>
Collector of Harleys, Willys and
Radios over 100lbs.
=====

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End of BOATANCHORS Digest 3633
